

62 attend 75th reunion of Griswold families

Ridge Farm, Waymart RD 1, established in 1812 by Levi Norton when he moved from Goshen, Conn., to Clinton Township, Wayne County, and today the home of Mrs. Margaret Rude, was the site of the 75th meeting of the Griswold reunion on Wednesday, Aug. 19, 1981.

Sixty-two descendants of John Griswold and his wife, Elizabeth Crittenden, and friends of the Griswold descendants, gathered around four heavily laden picnic tables for a covered dish dinner at 12 noon. As the tables were being cleared in readiness for the annual program and business meeting, a drawing and awards ceremony, organized and presented by S. Robert Powell, took place, and seven prizes - Chinese paper fans, Oriental tea, and others - were awarded. Among the winners were Mrs. Leona Vaughn, who came the longest distance, from the state of Washington, five miles from Puget Sound; and Mrs. Margaret Rude, who came the shortest distance.

The business meeting and program, presided over by Mrs. Beatrice Bartholomay, acting president, commenced by the entire group standing and singing one verse of "America," and a prayer by the Rev. G. Fay Crossman.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: president, John Rude; vice president, Stephen Gravalec; secretary-treasurer, Donald W. Powell; program committee chairman, Alice Lund. The former table committee, Mildred LaBarre, Gertrude Snyder and Dorothy Olver, was unanimously re-elected.

The Griswold reunion always takes place on the third Wednesday of August, and the third Wednesday of August is also one of the four publication dates of "Northeastern Pennsylvania," the historical

quarterly dealing with the history of the eleven counties of northeastern Pennsylvania. The issue of "Northeastern Pennsylvania," published Wednesday, Aug. 19, 1981, is entitled "Studio Photography in Northeastern Pennsylvania, 1839-1900, Part III." The issue also contains eight pages of "Genealogical and Local History Notes," a regular feature of the quarterly. In the Nov. 19, 1980, issue of "Northeastern Pennsylvania," appeared a detailed history of the Griswold family entitled, "John Griswold 1754-1843 and Elizabeth Crittenden 1761-1851 of Clinton Township, Wayne County, Pennsylvania: their ancestors, their descendants." The author of that history, S. Robert Powell, has in the past year been engaged in gathering as much material as possible on the Griswolds, and a questionnaire seeking basic biographical information on births, deaths, marriages and graduations, was sent to many Griswold descendants. Griswolds who could not be at Ridge farm for the reunion, sent their questionnaires by mail. An invitation to the reunion was sent to the daughter of Gertrude Irene Loomis and Henry H. Schaffer, and her husband, Audrey and Terje Steinsto, who live in Norway. Two days after the reunion an audio cassette was sent by Mrs. Steinsto to Mrs. Margaret Rude. In that cassette, Audrey Steinsto talks about her family and about the geography of Norway. In addition to the wealth of new information from the returned questionnaires, much new information was read aloud to the assembled group by Mrs. Verna C. Varcoe, acting head of the committee on births, deaths and marriages, and by Mrs. Stephen Treat, Mrs. Margaret Rude and S. Robert Powell.

Mrs. Alice Lund, head of the program committee, presented Mrs. Mildred Anderson, who played her autoharp and led the group in singing old time songs and hymns. Mrs. Lund gave a violin solo, "Whispering." She repeated her performance and the entire group sang along with her. Mrs. Lund read a text which she prepared on her recollections of the buildings and life as it was lived at the